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Message Text

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13
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05 /034 W
---------- 117618
R 092100Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7204

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FOLLOWING RECD FROM SAO PAULO DATED 09 JAN 75 BEING REPEATED
FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE
SAO PAULO 65

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, BR
SUBJECT: CENSORS REMOVED FROM O ESTADO

1. "O ESTADO'S1 MANAGING EDITOR, OLIVEIROS S. FERREIRA, TODAY INFORMED BPAO AND IO THAT OFFICIAL CENSORS WERE REMOVED FROM THE NEWSPAPER ON FRIDAY, JAN. 3, AND HAVE NOT RETURNED SINCE THAT DATE.

2. ACCORDING TO FERREIRA, THE NEWSPAPER RECEIVED A CALL FROM THE CENSORS ON MONDAY, JAN. 6, INFORMING IT THAT IT SHOULD NOT PRINT A CERTAIN NEWS STORY. WHEN HE INQUIRED OF PUBLISHER JULIO MESQUITA WHY THERE WERE NO CENSORS AT THE NEWSPAPER, MESQUITA STATED THAT THEY HAD BEEN REMOVED AT THE REQUEST OF PRESIDENT GEISEL.

3. FERREIRA ALSO STATED THAT THEIR REMOVAL WAS PERMANENT AND THAT THE ESTADO WILL HAVE FREEDOM WITHIN THE IDEOLOGICAL LIMITS OF JULIO MESQUITA. HE THEN ADDED THAT MESQUITA IS A "REACTIONARY."

4. FERREIRA SAID HE IS "SCARED" AS A RESULT OF THE REMOVAL OF
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THE CENSORS; THAT IT MAY BE A "TRAP." HE ALSO SAID THAT MUCH

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DEPENDS ON THE MDB--WHETHER IT IS AN OPPOSITION "OF THE GOVERNMENT" OR "TO THE GOVERNMENT," AND HE IMPLIED THAT HE CONSIDERS IT THE LATTER. HIS IMPLICATION WAS THAT IF THE MDB APPLIES REAL PRESSURE TO THE GOVERNMENT, IT WILL REACT BY REINSTITUTING CENSORSHIP OF "O ESTADO."

5. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE MDB NOW HAS THE POWER TO CALL FOR A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO "THE MATTER OF ACCOUNTING FOR 21 BODIES, INCLUDING ONE AMERICAN." (I.E. PAULO STUART WRIGHT) HE ADDED THAT IN THE CASE OF THE AMERICAN HE DOES CONSIDER IT TO BE "A CASE OF A BODY" RATHER THAN A PERSON WHO IS "MISSING." HE SAID IF SUCH A COMMISSION WERE NAMED, THE FIRST WITNESSES THEY CALLED WOULD BE THE GENERALS OF THE FOUR ARMIES. THE LIST OF MISSING BODIES, ACCORDING TO FERREIRA, ALSO INCLUDES FOUR MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN BRAZIL. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE COMMUNIST PARTY HAD CANDIDATES RUNNING UNDER THE MDB TICKET, BUT DID NOT IDENTIFY THE ALLEGED COMMUNISTS BY NAME.

6. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO RECONCILE THE CONFLICT BETWEEN OLIVEIROS FERREIRA'S VERSION AND THAT OF MARIO CUNHA AS REPORTED IN RIO'S 61, A COPY OF WHICH WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED AS THIS MESSAGE IS BEING TRANSMITTED.
CHAPIN UNQUOTE
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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